

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN RIO DE JANEIRO
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 04102

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SS, MO, AG

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM:

ATHERTON TRAVEL TO MOROCCO AND ALGIERS

REF TOSEC 040146 (NOTAL)

1. LAST WEEK, RACHID ZEGHAR, ALGERIAN BUSINESSMAN AND
CONFIDANT OF BOUMEDIENE, TALKED WITH UNDER SECRETARY
ROBINSON AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON EXPRESSING DEEP
CONCERN THAT US POSITION ON SAHARA THREATENS SERIOUS
DETERIORATION IN US-GOA RELATIONS AND INDICATING THAT
IF HASSAN DOES NOT HONOR PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION
BOUMEDIENE IS PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN PROLONGED CONFRONTA-
TION WITH GOM. ZEGHAR SAID BOUMEDIENE WOULD BE FORCED TO
TURN TO SOVIETS FOR MORE DIRECT SUPPORT, BUT PREFERS NOT
TO MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION IF HE CAN FIND FACESAVING
WAY OUT OF CURRENT IMPASSE. HE APPEALED FOR EVEN-HANDED
US POLICY ON SHARA AND ASKED US TO INTERVENE TO PER-
SUADE HASSAN TO ACCEPT REFERENDUM IN SAHARA.
HE INDICATED THAT BOUMEDIENE BELIEVES US PRESSED SPAIN TO
NEGOTIATE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT TO ALGERIA'S DISADVANTAGE.
ZEGHAR RECOMMENDED THAT I VISIT ALGIERS TO MEET WITH BOUM-
EDIENE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS PROBLEM, OR IF I WAS
UNABLE TO DO SO, THAT ATHERTON SEE BOUMEDIENE. IT IS CLEAR
SECRET

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ZEGHAR WAS ACTING WITH BOUMEDIENE'S BLESSINGS AND THAT
BOUMEDIENE EXPECTED US RESPONSE.

2. ZEGHAR WAS TOLD THAT OUR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE HASSAN

WAS LIMITED, RECALLING UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO GET HASSAN TO CALL OFF GREEN MARCH. ALSO, HE WAS REMINDED OF REALITY THAT MOROCCO IS NOW IN SAHARA AND GIVEN REGIME'S POLITICAL INVESTMENT IN THE AREA NEITHER WE NOR ANYONE ELSE COULD PREVAIL ON GOM TO WITHDRAW OR SEEK A REFERENDUM. WE ASSURED ZEGHAR THAT WE WANTED TO PRESERVE OUR GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH MOROCCO AND ALGERIA AND HOPED THEY WOULD PEACEFULLY RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND AVOID INTERNATIONALIZATION OF ISSUE. WE PROMISED TO CONSIDER ALGERIA'S VIEWS.

3. IN VIEW OF BOUMEDIENE'S STRONG FEELINGS AND APPARENT MISCONSTRUCTION OF US POSITION, I HAVE DECIDED WE SHOULD HAVE ONE OF OUR PERIODIC REVIEWS OF US-ALGERIAN RELATIONSHIP, INCLUDING SAHARAN SITUATION. I HAVE THEREFORE INSTRUCTED ATHERTON TO ACCOMPANY ROBINSON ON ALGIERS VISIT AND ALSO TO VISIT RABAT FOR TALK HASSAN. I WANT TO DO ALL POSSIBLE IN THIS WAY TO MAINTAIN DIALOGUE WITH BOUMEDIENE AND DISABUSE HIM TO EXTENT POSSIBLE OF MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT USG POLICY, WHILE AVOIDING BEING DRAWN INTO ANY KIND OF MEDIATING ROLE OR AROUSING EXPECTATIONS THAT WE CAN EFFECT ANY FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN MOROCCAN SAHARA POLICY.

4. YOU SHOULD MAKE ORAL APPROACH TO GOA, REFERRING TO THE ZEGHAR CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON AND SAYING I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE ATHERTON ACCOMPANY UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON TO ALGIERS FOR REVIEW OF US-ALGERIAN RELATIONS, INCLUDING QUESTION OF SAHARA WHICH WE ASSUME BOUMEDIENE WILL WANT TO RAISE. ATHERTON WOULD PLAN TO STOP IN RABAT ENROUTE TO ALGIERS, ARRIVING IN ALGIERS FEBRUARY 27. HE WILL THUS HAVE BENEFIT OF A PRIOR EXCHANGE WITH KING HASSAN, WHICH SHOULD MAKE MEETING WITH BOUMEDIENE MORE MEANINGFUL. YOU SHOULD EXPRESS HOPE THAT SUCH A VISIT WILL BE CONVENIENT AND THAT BOUMEDIENE WOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE ATHERTON ON FEBRUARY 29 IF POSSIBLE OR MARCH 1, EITHER CONJOINTLY WITH ROBINSON OR IN SEPARATE MEETING.

5. YOU SHOULD CONVEY GIST PAR 4 ABOVE TO GOA URGENTLY
SECRET

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AND INFORM DEPT. NEA/ATHERTON OF RESPONSE BY IMMEDIATE CABLE TO REPEATED TO ME.

6. DEPARTMENT PLEASE CONFIRM TO ATHERTON SUNDAY THAT THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT DIRECT TO ALGIERS.
KISSINGER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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